

March 20, 2003

Dear Friends,

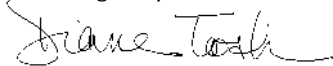
This is what made an impact on me last year. Along with each of you, I watched war escalate. I watched as the devastating effects of U.S. foreign policy, which we have been crying out against all these years, played in horrifying relief in the mainstream media. I have heard those voices in the world who still believe that military force will solve instead of make problems, big ones. And here at the Institute I have seen, up real close, the mobilization of a mass movement for peace and social justice.

This is the fourth and last letter for Muste Notes that I will write during my stay at the Institute. In each letter I tell you how much it means to me to support a movement as it gathers old and new groups to stand against outrageous acts of war and repression. Giving that support means something to the groups who need money to organize, and it means a lot to those who of us who give.

This is what made an impact on me last year. I was given the gift of being able to help, even in a small way, the fight for peace and social justice. I was given that gift at a time when choosing to do otherwise is not an option. The Muste Institute made it easy for me, as it does for each of us. My year here is up in April. I will leave thoroughly energized by working around people who give all of themselves each day for what I believe in.

No matter what else I do, I will keep giving to the Institute, out of gratitude for its sustenance of a very wide range of organizations on my behalf. I hope you will join me, and that you will allow me to say once more, as I did in my first letter a year ago, that in this time of seemingly overwhelming hatred, your gift to those who counter with kindness is needed more than ever.

With great faith in our work for peace,



Diane Tosh



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SPRING 2003

The World Says No to War



PHOTO BY GARTH LIEBHABER

Organizers believe at least 350,000 people attended the February 15th anti-war demonstration in New York City. More photos and eyewitness reports can be seen at nyc.indymedia.org. **United for Peace and Justice**, the national coalition that coordinated February 15 rallies throughout the US, was formed in October 2002 by more than 70 peace and justice organizations, including the **War Resisters League**, the 80-year old pacifist organization which is fiscally sponsored by the Muste Institute and based at our building in Manhattan. Also involved is the New York-based **"Not In Our Name"** campaign, which is hosted in our building by the New York Metro chapter of **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom** (WILPF).

For more information:
unitedforpeace.org
warresisters.org
notinourname.net

New Board Member

The Muste Institute Board of Directors welcomed a new member in January. Rebecca Libed, 26, worked for the Institute as a part-time administrative assistant until last fall, while completing her degree work in nonprofit management at New School University's Milano Graduate School. A pacifist, Rebecca is now the Community Development Project Manager at Cypress Hills Local Community Development Corporation, a community-based housing organization that provides counseling,

development, and human services programs to families in Cypress Hills, Brooklyn. Rebecca is also co-coordinator of GABRIELA Network New York / New Jersey, a U.S.-Filipina women's solidarity organization which recently became a sponsored project of the Muste Institute.

The Muste Institute is pleased to have Rebecca back. We would also like to thank former Board members Mark O'Brien and Lisa Vives, who both left over the past year, for their dedicated service to the Institute.



Grantee Profile:

Lawyers Defend Immigrants and Dissenters

Last September, the Muste Institute granted \$1,500 to the Post 9-11 Project of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) San Francisco Bay Area chapter, for its work in defense of immigrants and activists affected by the recent curtailing of civil liberties. This article was written by Riva Enteen, the chapter's program director.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, the San Francisco office of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) received calls from activist groups saying "We fear for our civil liberties." That afternoon, we had 10 activists and 10 Guild attorneys meet in our office to discuss what the Guild could do. We decided to set up a hotline to provide free legal help for people contacted by the FBI or the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), and to produce and distribute brochures advising people of their rights. The brochures have been translated into at least five languages, and the hotline has expanded its referrals to help those targeted for INS "Special Registration" interviews.

The post 9-11 era is steeped in constitutional questions, and the Guild gets at least two requests a week for speakers. So we created a Speakers Bureau and produced a packet with background and contact information on speakers who are available to address issues ranging from the "Patriot Act" and "Homeland Security," to international law and the Guantanamo detainees, to draft counseling and resisting military recruitment on campus.

One member of our Speakers Bureau is Morton Sobel, co-defendant of Ethel and



The Immigration Committee of NLG's San Francisco chapter worked in alliance with other groups to organize this demonstration in front of the INS building in San Francisco. The date was January 10, 2003—the second deadline for the "Special Registration" process. In the week before the deadline, the Guild provided legal support to community groups monitoring the INS in tracking the number of people being detained.

Julius Rosenberg. He spent 18 years in prison, and believes times now are much worse than during the McCarthy period of the 1950s, for two reasons: the Constitution itself is under attack, and there is a wider net for those targeted by the government. The Guild itself was under attack during the McCarthy era, almost listed as a "subversive" organization. Sobel also cautions that the greater the resistance, the greater the repression—but that we have no choice, we must resist.

The Guild's long history—protecting immigrant rights and the right to dissent since 1937—makes us able to play a significant role in this period. We helped initiate the campaign to repeal the Patriot Act. The Immigration Committee of our San Francisco chapter has held four legal clinics to provide free consultations about the Special Registration process, under which people on temporary visas from 25 (mostly Muslim) countries must go to the INS to be fingerprinted, photographed and interviewed. Chapter staff and volunteers have worked with Iraqi, Bangladeshi and many other groups to translate and distribute materials about their rights.

Nationally, the Guild has gone on record that we will defend protesters engaging in civil disobedience, using the defense of necessity when appropriate. The San Francisco Chapter is working with community groups planning massive civil disobedience against the war, and has set up a legal office with capacity for 24-hour phone staffing. Our members are calling, eager to help defend demonstrators who get arrested.

We are frequently called upon to publicly denounce this illegal preemptive war. What we assert is that the way for the world to be safe from terror is, as the Guild constitution of 1937 declares, to work so "that human rights shall be regarded as more sacred than property interests." The first road to peace is to end the obscene disparity of wealth on this earth. Never have these contradictions been more stark, and never has the resistance been so massive on a global scale. People of conscience must take their place in history, and demand an end to exploitation and a commitment to human rights and dignity.

—Riva Enteen

Some useful websites:

National Lawyers Guild:
www.nlg.org

Northampton Bill of Rights Defense Committee: www.gif.org/NBORDC

Center for Constitutional Rights:
www.ccr-ny.org

Lawyers Committee for Human Rights: www.lchr.org

American Civil Liberties Union:
www.aclu.org

Central Committee for Conscientious Objection: www.objector.org

BANNERS FOR PEACE

The Muste Institute is sponsoring a banner design contest for high school sophomores and juniors in the New York City metro area. The winner will be responsible for making and hanging a 4' X 12' banner on the roof of our building in Lower Manhattan. The banner should have the text: "An Eye for an Eye Makes the Whole World Blind" - Gandhi. The Institute will provide the winning contestant with all needed materials, technical assistance and a cash award of \$50. For details, check out the contest announcement on the Muste Institute website.

New Grants, December 2002-January 2003

EDUCATORS FOR PEACE

Porto Alegre, Brazil: \$5,000 (SFE)

This grant from our special donor-directed Sheilah's Fund East goes for the publication of a Portuguese-language version of the "From Violence to Wholeness" training manual, originally produced by Pace e Bene, a US-based Franciscan nonviolence organization. Educators for Peace and other partner groups in Brazil plan to use the manual in their nonviolence trainings.

HOWARD ZINN VIDEO DOCUMENTARY

Burlington, VT: \$1,000

Our grant goes for post-production of "Howard Zinn: You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train," a one-hour video documenting the life of historian and social justice activist Howard Zinn, co-produced by Deb Ellis & Denis Mueller.

J.K. EDUCATION COUNCIL

Orissa, India: \$2,000

This grassroots womens' organization provides nonviolence education and training to rural young women in the districts of Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar, in the Indian state of Orissa. Our grant went for the Education for Peace and Human Rights Program, which trains women to serve as promoters of peace, justice and equality in their communities. The trainings encourage women to confront gender and caste inequalities, diminish religious conflicts and address terrorism.

The A.J. Muste Memorial Institute makes small grants to groups doing nonviolent organizing for social change. Our next deadline for proposals is May 2, 2003. Please check our website or call our office for updated guidelines.

PENNSYLVANIA ABOLITIONISTS UNITED AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

Philadelphia, PA: \$1,000

Pennsylvania Abolitionists was founded in 1997 in response to Governor Tom Ridge's zeal for signing death warrants. Our grant goes for the Death Penalty Moratorium Campaign, pushing for a halt to executions in Pennsylvania using education and nonviolent action. The campaign featured a recent statewide tour by three Pennsylvanians who were released from death row after evidence of their innocence was revealed.

POMEGRANATE FILMS

New York, NY: \$2,000

This grant goes for a grassroots promotion and distribution campaign for "Civilian Casualties," a 60-minute documentary film about the civilian victims of the US bombing of Afghanistan following September 11, 2001. The story is told through the eyes of four members of "September 11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows" who lost relatives in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. The four traveled to Afghanistan in January 2002 to share their grief and offer condolences to the Afghani victims' families.

PROJECT SOUTH

Atlanta, GA: \$2,000

Since its founding in 1986, Project South: Institute for the Elimination of Poverty & Genocide has focused on nonviolent action for social justice in partnership with other grassroots organizations across the southeastern US. The Project South Youth Council was formed in fall of 2001 by a group of young people who participated in an all-day movement-building workshop. This grant goes for the Youth Council's "Living & Working in Peace" program, reaching out to encourage local youth to use nonviolent action to make change in their communities.

SERVICIO PAZ Y JUSTICIA (SERPAJ)-AMERICA LATINA

Montevideo, Uruguay: \$15,000 (SFE)

This Sheilah's Fund East donor-directed grant goes for the regional coordinating office of SERPAJ (Peace and Justice Service), a network of nonviolence organizations in Latin America. SERPAJ chapters focus on such issues as human rights, the environment, labor rights, women's rights, indigenous rights and conscientious objection to military service.

SIPAZ

Santa Cruz, CA: \$3,000 (SFE)

SIPAZ (Servicio Internacional por la Paz) works to support the peace process in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas through violence-reduction and peace-building strategies and efforts to inform and mobilize the international community. This Sheilah's Fund East grant went for SIPAZ' board meeting in Chiapas in February of this year.

SUPPORT TEAM INTERNATIONAL FOR TEXTILERAS (STITCH)

Washington, DC: \$2,000

Since 1994, STITCH has worked to build solidarity between women unionists and activists in the US and Central America. This grant goes for a six-month training institute with Honduran women workers organizing at export assembly plants (maquiladoras).

MUSTE QUOTES

"We want to see Nazism wiped out; we do not speak of wiping out Nazis because we see no evidence that killing off people who hold certain ideas, or are temporarily spell-bound by them, is an effective way to get rid of those ideas."

(from the 1941 essay
"Where Are We Going?")

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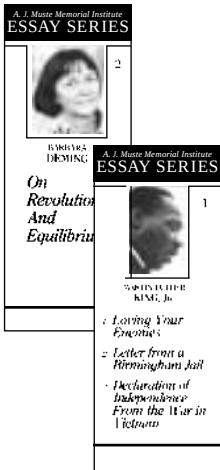
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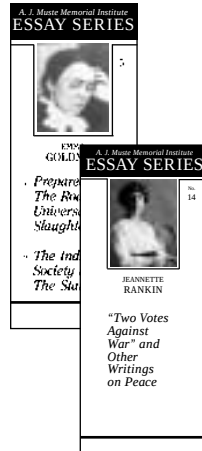
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#3: Henry David Thoreau—the original architect of resistance—*On the Duty of Civil Disobedience*

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#4: Jessie Wallace Hughan—suffragist, peace activist, founder of the War Resisters League—*Pacifism and Invasion; On Duelling*

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#5: Emma Goldman—fiery orator, anarchist, agitator for peace and liberation—*Preparedness: The Road to Universal Slaughter; The Individual, Society and the State*

qty: _____

#6: Rosa Luxemburg—courageous leader of Germany's democratic socialist movement—*Prison Letters*

qty: _____

#7: A. J. Muste—foremost Century pacifist theoretician and activist, minister, socialist—*Who Has the Spiritual Atom Bomb?*

qty: _____

#8: On Wars of Liberation—three essays on pacifist responses to armed freedom struggles, including analysis of Gandhi's position

qty: _____

#9: Aldous Huxley—Twentieth Century visionary and prolific writer—*Science, Liberty and Peace*

qty: _____

#10: Paul Goodman—pacifist, anarchist, activist—*The Morality of Scientific Technology; The Psychology of Being Powerless*

qty: _____

#11: Some Writings on War Tax Resistance—thoughts, poems, tales from resisters, including Juanita Nelson, Allen Ginsberg and Pete Seeger

qty: _____

#12: Sidney Lens—peace and labor activist, socialist, occasional political candidate—six articles spanning three decades on the state of the U.S. labor movement

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#14: Jeannette Rankin—first woman in Congress, suffragist, pacifist—*"Two Votes Against War" and Other Writings on Peace*

qty: _____

#15: David McReynolds—longtime activist with the War Resisters League, Socialist Party presidential candidate—*A Philosophy of Nonviolence*

qty: _____

Peace Agitator:

the story of

A.J. Muste,

by Nat Hentoff.

An activist writer chronicles the 'grandfather' of the current U.S. peace movement—minister, labor activist, pacifist and resister. This 1982 edition contains many photographs and an introduction by Larry Gara, a leading historian of the nonviolence movement.

qty: _____

The Essays of A.J. Muste

Edited by Nat Hentoff, preface by Jo Ann O. Robinson. Originally issued in 1967, this new edition includes Muste's "Notes for an Autobiography," plus essays on pacifism, civil rights, trade unionism and foreign policy. Written between 1905 and 1966, the essays stand as an extraordinary companion to our everyday work for peace and social justice. qty: _____

Muste Institute t-shirts are black cotton with a four-color geometric design and the words: "There is no way to peace, peace is the way - A.J. Muste" Available in large and extra large (please specify) for \$15 each.

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* for bulk rates, contact the Muste Institute office

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